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Vintage wear  
for the winter

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## Opening the future

Future Pass has landed in Beijing to conclude a worldwide tour that began with the 54th Venice Biennale.

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## Big plans for little shop

The French designers behind Tang' Roulou have big changes in store for the handicraft shop.



# The new Dashilar

Dashilar is an important stop on the south side of Beijing's Central Axis. For hundreds of years, it has been an important center of business, entertainment and culture.

An attempt to revitalize it has been underway since 2010. However, the developers still have a lot of work ahead of them if they want to win the neighborhood's trust and access to improve the homes.

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lands abroad

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# Farmers head for Russia

By Bao Chengrong

Moving home farms into Russia has become a popular trend in the northeast.

An estimated 40 percent of farmers in Heilongjiang Province are farming in Russia on rented land due to the lower costs. However, many fear policy changes might soon make this impossible.

Zhang Hongbin, 54, has been farming in Russia since 2005.

He leased another 100 hectares to plant on earlier this year. Although he spent 1.5 million yuan on two tractors, a reaping machine and several other pieces of equipment, he managed to turn a profit of 400,000 yuan this year.

Zhang used to be a farmer of "209 Farm" in Baoquanling, Heilongjiang Province.

At the time, he had only 1 hectare to plant and no way to acquire more. The rental cost of 15,000 yuan was difficult to bear given what his plot could produce.

After talking to his wife, Zhang decided to head to Russia. Using land rented from Baoquanling Far East Agricultural Cultivation, the couple and another three workers started a small farm to raise soybeans.

Far East has helped 106 farmers to start 51 small farms in Russia. It expects to acquire another 1,000



Chinese and Russian farmers cooperate to make the most of Russia's land. IC Photo

hectares to lease next year, bringing its total acreage to 6,128 hectares.

The company had only 1,400 hectares when the first group of farmers arrived eight years ago, said Chen Yong, Far East's general manager.

Low rent is what draws the most farmers. Land typically goes for between 1,000 and 2,600 rubles (203 to 528 yuan) per hectare.

If a Russian farmer and Chinese farmer want to rent the same piece of land, the company holds an auction.

The highest price a hectare has gone for to date was 2,600 rubles.

The Chinese farmers mainly plant soybeans and corn. Since corn can hardly be grown without artificial drying devices, more farmers choose to plant soybeans. However, the Russian government is more interested in corn.

Many farmers transport their unsold soybeans back to China. The extra cost, including tariffs and value added tax, is quite high. Chen said soybean produc-

tion would have to reach 1.48 tons per hectare for farmers to break even: it has already passed 1.9 tons. Chen said the company began with a wetland area that had been abandoned for 30 years. He and the farmers suffered hot weather and flies, and lived on steamed bread and surface water. After reclaiming the land, he persuaded officials to sign a 49-year lease.

To solve the problem of extra soybeans, Chen began selling soybean powder to South Korea.

But Zhang fears that the honeymoon may be over.

Russian officials worry that many Chinese may use farming to illegally immigrate into the country. They also fear that continuous farming may exhaust the recently reclaimed land.

The country had increasingly few opportunities for Chinese immigrants. Chen said 165 farmers applied to come and farm in Russia next year: only 75 were granted the necessary visas. Russia has announced plans to open its land to farmers from South Korea, Singapore and Vietnam.

Another problem for Chen is how to protect Chinese farmers' interests. In 2005, 10 Chinese farmers were detained by Russian Immigration for having incomplete documents. Although they were freed after a legal battle, the threat remains that powerful Russian interests can sweep away Chinese farmers at a moment's notice.

Regardless of the tough conditions, Chen said his company plans to continue its expansion. Meanwhile, the "new friendship farm," co-built by Dongning Huaxin Group and Beida Huang Group this year, is expected to control 200,000 hectares by 2016.

"There is still a lot of room for small farms in Russia," Chen said.

## Loeb & Loeb opens office in Hong Kong

By David Huang

The law firm of Loeb & Loeb LLP is expanding its presence in Asia with a new office in Hong Kong.

The new office, its second in Asia after a Beijing office opened in 2009, is associated with Pang & Co, a Hong Kong-based solicitors' firm approved by the Law Society of Hong Kong.

Benny Pang will be joining the firm's Capital Markets Department as a partner; Lawrence Venick, Loeb & Loeb's partner, will head the Hong Kong office.

Pang, a managing partner of Pang & Co, has extensive experience in corporate finance and securities law in Hong Kong.

"That experience will help Chinese companies gain access to US capital markets," Pang said.

"As one of the world's leading international financial centers, Hong Kong has been a key part of our strategic growth plan in Asia for some time," said Loeb & Loeb Chairman Michael D. Beck.

"The Hong Kong office and the asso-

ciation with Pang & Co will offer our clients access to an important business market that is a major player in the global economy," he said. Pang & Co's 16 members include Hong Kong and US attorneys, solicitors and paralegals.

The team will work in association with Loeb & Loeb's Hong Kong office, as well as the firm's Beijing and US offices, to focus on capital market transactions. They will provide regulatory advice in China and organize IPOs in both the Main Board and the Growth Enterprise Market of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange.

They will also organize mergers and acquisitions, as well as general corporate and commercial transactions.

"This office together with the experienced team will expand our capability to assist companies throughout Asia with IPOs and Hong Kong financings," said Mitchell S. Nussbaum, chairman of Loeb & Loeb's Capital Markets and Asia Practices.



Benny Pang



Lawrence Venick

# Architect celebrated on Day of the Dead

By Zhao Hongyi

The Day of Dead is fast approaching, and Beijing's Mexican community is preparing for the celebration.

Mexicans worldwide observe the holiday each year on November 1 and 2: All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day on the Catholic calendar.

The day is used to visit cemeteries and decorate graves with flowers and candles. Many families hold vigils in memory of their loved ones. At home, Mexicans adorn colorful altars with photos, mementos and favorite foods of the deceased.

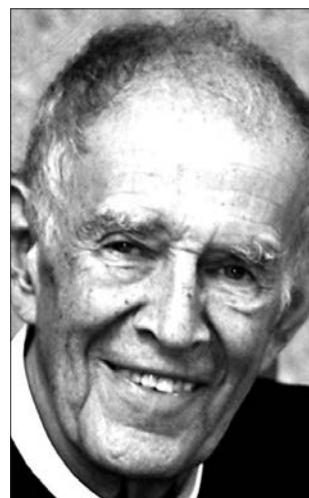
The Day of the Dead is less about mourning than about celebrating and accepting death with humor and irony.

Its celebration can be traced back to indigenous peoples, such as the Olmec, Zapotec, Mixtec, Mexica, Maya, P'urhépecha and Totonac, who have held similar rituals for the past 3,000 years.

Upon arriving in Mexico, the Spaniards encountered an Aztec festival dedicated to Mictecacihuatl, the goddess of death. People celebrated the memory of their loved ones using incense, animal skin costumes, icons of death



(left) An image of death for the Day of Dead, (right) Ricardo Legorreta Vilchis, world renowned Mexican architect



Photos provided by Mexican Embassy

and offerings of ceramics, foods and flowers.

Mictecacihuatl's festival fell near the end of July on the Gregorian calendar. After the Spanish conquest, priests pushed the Day of the Dead closer to All Hallows' Eve.

In the language of the day, All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day were known as Allhallowmas, making October 31 Allhallow'ds Eve, or Hallow'e'en.

Visiting the cemetery gives family members a chance to interact socially with other

families and the greater community. Because of the warm social environment, the colorful setting and the abundance of food, the holiday has pleasant overtones.

In spite of the open fatalism exhibited by all participants, celebrating Day of the Dead is seen as an important social ritual to recognize the cycle of life and death.

The festival has been recognized by UNESCO as part of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity since 2003.

This year, the Embassy of

Mexico in Beijing has dedicated its altar to Ricardo Legorreta Vilchis, who died on December 30, 2011.

Legorreta was a Mexican architect who studied architecture at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, from which he graduated in 1953.

After working for five years with José Villagrán García, he established his own office in 1963. He was a prolific designer of private houses, public buildings and master plans in Mexico, the US, Israel, Qatar

and a number of countries in South America.

Legorreta was a disciple of Luis Barragan and carried Barragan's ideas to a wider realm. He applied elements of Barragan's architecture in his work, including bright colors, play of light and shadow and solid, Platonic geometric shapes.

One of his most important contributions was the use of these elements in hotels and factories, as well as commercial and educational buildings.

He was awarded the prestigious Union of International Association (UIA) Gold Medal in 1999, the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Gold Medal in 2000 and the Praemium Imperiale in 2011.

The Mexican Embassy will be celebrating his life and achievements from October 22 to November 2. Individuals and parties are welcome to observe and participate, though advanced booking is required.

**Address:** Embassy of the United States of Mexico, 5 Sanlitun Dongwu Jie, Chaoyang District

**Time:** 10 am – 5 pm, Monday – Friday

**Tel:** 6532 2070

**Price:** Free

## Austrian program showcases best of art

By Liu Xiaochen

Left and Right, a new exhibition featuring works by 41 artist from more than 11 countries, is on display at Hong Studio.

Located at the Sanlitun Diplomatic Compound, the exhibition, which opened October 13, includes inspiring creations in a variety of media formats, including photographs, paintings, videos, performances, collage and prints, as well as written works, musical compositions and animations.

During the exhibition, Hong Studio will feature coding and algorithmic works, videos and prints from the Czech Republic and a workshop about how to open a museum taught by students from the Central Academy of Fine Arts and Today Art Museum.

The exhibition is part of



An exhibition in Sanlitun at Left and Right, an artist is performing



Photos provided by ASAP

the Austro Sino Arts Program (ASAP) operated by Karel Dudesek and Lukas Birk, the curators.

ASAP is a non-profit organization supported by the Ministry for Education Arts and Culture in Austria and the embassy. Through

its Cultural Forum, the embassy has supported ASAP since it began four years ago.

The government of Austria has been very active in supporting the arts. Its Ministry of the Arts sends 12 artists to China each year for residency

programs and sponsors other artists in China.

"If we compare its effort to other countries', it is rather huge. Austria is a small country, but it does much more for artists with its money," Birk said.

The works from ASAP's

41 artists are not "Western art presented in China": each was created in China.

"The exhibition is not about adventure. Each piece is by an artist with a unique background," said Zhao Li, a spokesperson for the exhibition.

"These artists came to China to create things here as the resident. From this position, they transmit concepts or ideas about contemporary Chinese society, culture and art."

"It is not just foreigners making something in China," Zhao said.

"We have been seeking support from and collaboration with Chinese institutions for many years, but interest has been limited," Birk said.

"However, we are planning several collaborations next year in the south, such as in Ningbo."

# Independent handicraft shop full of new ideas

By Liu Xiaocheng

Last Sunday in a small yard at Dashilar, two models – a little boy and a little girl, barely over three years old – wore vintage Chinese clothing and smiled for the camera while playing with toys.

They were here to pose for Amelie Peraud and Pierre-Yves Babin, French designers who have operated an independent handicraft shop, Tang' Roulou, at Sanlitun for five years.

This was the first time the two had hired models to promote their products. Tang' Roulou carries several dresses specifically for children.

"We design accessories with Chinese characteristics," Babin said.

The two are cooperating with a child photography studio specially for children, which will help them to promote their store.

Peraud and Babin use three tailors at a studio in Jiaodaokou.

In addition to their retail store at Sanlitun, they have three other stores in Chaoyang and Dongcheng districts, as well as Shanghai and Taipei. Their customers are spread out around the world.

The pictures will be posted on Tang' Roulou's online shop on Taobao, which opened at the end of last year.

Peraud and Babi participated in this year's Beijing Design Week at Dashilar with their design "Fabrickolor."

"We have many ideas that



Photo by Charles Bedue for Tang' Roulou



Beijing Design Week 2012 Tang' Roulou "FABRICKOLOR" Little courtyard



Kids having fun with Tang' Roulou Fabric Hutong Bricks

Photos provided by Tang' Roulou

haven't been put into practice," Peraud said. "Design week was an opportunity for us to do new designs and introduce our new products."

The two also incorporate creative elements into their shops.

At 7 Zhujia Hutong, various handmade accessories from the last year hang on two walls. One wall is covered

with colored ropes, with text next to the rope corresponding to an item. Pull the rope, and a red light turns on, illuminating the corresponding product.

They also held a workshop to teach others how to make buttons for Tang suits.

Babin said the couple's newest designs, featuring children, have allowed them

to see things through a child's eyes.

"It gives us another view of culture, because when you're inside your own culture, you miss a lot of details," he said.

The two designers plan to establish a website to promote their brand to an international audience.

"I studied publishing and



Amelie Peraud and Pierre-Yves Babin

advertising and graduated from a French education department with experience as a teacher," Peraud said. "Pierre-Yves was a hotel manager. Regardless of our education and work experience, they all relate to creation. They give us a wide range of ideas."

The two designers are inspired by what they see and the places they go.

Babin said he would like to travel to more rural places throughout China.

"I think big cities are all the same, but the countryside is different," he said. "We like old houses, old furniture and old clothing very much. We can get a lot of inspiration from them."

Babin, who was born on a farm, also enjoys Beijing's hutong.

"It's very quiet, and all the neighbors know each other," he said. "In the apartment buildings, neighbors don't know each other. They don't communicate at all. The hutong is more like a small village, and there are few places like this in the big cities."

## Russian man arrested after drunk rampage

By Niu Chen

A Russian man was arrested last Friday after causing a series of accidents.

Local police in Chaoyang District received a call reporting an aggressive drunk around 3:30 pm. The man, who had dined at a hotel in the Jianguomen area, slashed a server with a kitchen knife before stealing a car and fleeing.

He crashed into several other vehicles before exiting the car and attempting to flee on foot before he was captured.

The suspect was sent to detention at the Jianwai Police Station. At present, the case is under investigation.

"He already had a lot of wine when he came in," said the duty manager of the hotel, surnamed Zhu, who was on duty when the incident took place.

"I asked the staff to pay more attention to him, not expecting that some-

thing would go wrong in the afternoon," she said.

"He walked out of the hotel lobby waving knives," said the hotel's security staff.

Other witnesses said the man was about 1.8 meters tall, wore a big t-shirt and shorts, and looked like he might have been on drugs.

"If I had opened my door, he would have robbed my car," said a witness surnamed Han. The man walked away after Han locked his door.

A middle-aged man who had just parked his Buick, waiting for a car wash, was the person who had his vehicle stolen.

By the time he reached Jianhua South Road, the Russian had crashed into a van, two taxis and a bus, then pulled onto the sidewalk and knocked

down a pedestrian.

He then abandoned the car and ran into a restaurant near Beijing Friendship Store, where the chef, Chen Xiaobing, was holding a meeting with the cooks.

Chen saw the man run into the kitchen, followed by a young man shouting, "This foreigner is running away from a car accident."

The man was chased out of the restaurant and eventually caught by Chen and another young man.

"The suspect reeked of alcohol," Chen said. "He didn't fight, but repeatedly tried to escape."

Chen called the police and the man was brought to Jianwai police station.

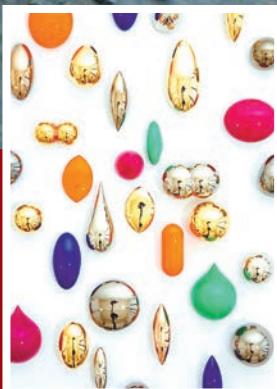
*Beijing Today* phoned the station, but the staff declined to comment, only saying the case was still being investigated.



Photo provided by Beijing News

# The transformation of Dashilar

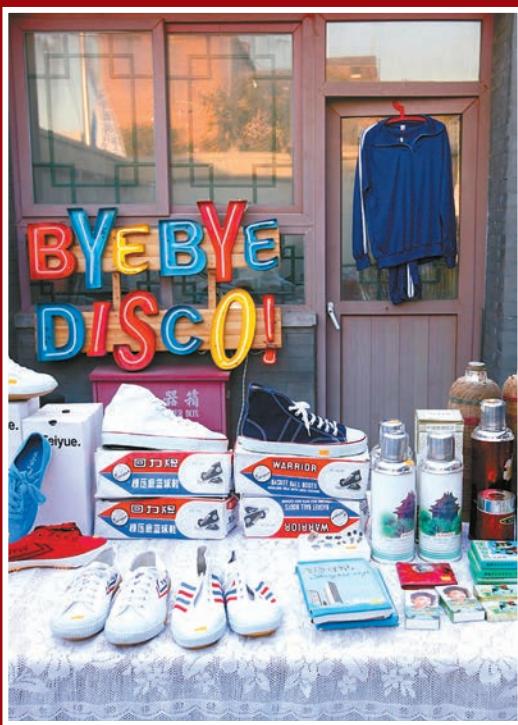
Old blocks may have a bright future, if people buy in



Exhibitions and designer works at this year's Beijing Design Week



Photos provided by Beijing Dashilar Investment Company



By Liu Xiaochen

Dashilar, land located in the heart of Old Beijing, represents an important point on the southern tip of the city's famous Central Axis. Just south of Tian'anmen Square and west of Qianmen Street, Dashilar has been a center for business, entertainment and culture for hundreds of years.

In an attempt to keep it vibrant and relevant, Beijing Dashilar Investment and Guang An Holdings implemented a set of renovations in 2010, which has transformed the old neighborhood.

#### Transformation plan

"Soft organic renewal" was the focus, specifically these three aspects: livelihood of the people, protection of historical blocks, and regional economic and social development.

The management team implemented a three-step plan.

First, the residents in the area given the option of retaining their old home instead of accepting compensation to move out.

But the second part was they had to vacate their homes while they underwent a series of renovations.

"We are still in the early stage of this step," said Jia Rong, the associate general manager of Beijing Dashilar Investment and Guang An Holdings. "We don't know when we'll get to the final step. In order not to destroy and negatively influence Dashilar's overall environment and its natural development, we didn't set up a timetable for each step."

Third, comprehensive development would create new buildings and attract new industries, which would coexist with the residents and the cul-

tural relics already there.

"Dashilar will be compatible with a variety of industries and residence," Jia said. "There will be traditional sights for tourism, and new cultural and artistic spaces, plus places for commerce."

"Of course, retained residents will also be there. It'll be rich, cultural, inclusive and open."

#### Difficulties

The process of vacating and then returning to homes has caused problems, however.

"Residents often think vacating and returning to their homes is demolition," Jia said. "They usually choose to wait and see what will happen."

Jia said the plan needs to be publicized in a way that people will trust what the government.

Part of the problem is that in the early stages of the plan, Dashilar's managers didn't sufficiently get the word out, fearing there would be misunderstandings.

"Too many negative opinions can kill the plan," Jia said. "If society and its people can understand that it's actually good for them, there won't be as many misunderstandings. Doing this can help promote Dashilar's development."

#### A boost from

#### Beijing Design Week

Beijing Design Week (BJDW) has been held at Dashilar since 2011, bringing creative people from around the world to the district.

This year's theme was "design for people," seeking to combine designs with the way people live.

Lots of people visited the district during Design Week. Activities were split into four categories: Dashila(b)-ora-

tory, Augmented Virtual Reality History Walk X 24 Hours Dashilar, Yangmeizhu Adventures in Design and Originality of Dashilar.

Organizers tried to promote the ecology of hutong living and help the public understand what that is.

Nuandao, an online store that sells designer products, invited as many as 20 Chinese designers and established eight stores under different themes. They sold crafts, including jewelry, clothing, ceramics and notebooks.

"This is a very unique place that is still under transformation," said Nuandao founder Natasia Guo. "The curators have great ideas that mesh with local residents' lives."

"I'm worried about its development. If it is too fast, Dashilar will become too commercial. That will affect the quality of designer products."

Jia said BJDW will remain an important part of Dashilar's future.

"We hope to be able to encourage residents and businesses to participate in not only the week but also the entire renovation project," she said.

Hou Jiawen, designer of the store Casual Locations, said he agrees.

"The old architecture can be extended to produce something new, such as comic book or T-shirt shops," he said. "I think we should ask more designers to regularly run workshops here, expose them to Dashilar so that their designs get better."

He said he hopes for a long-term relationship with the designers.

"We need to group together to help each other survive," he said.



1. A Shin (Chen Shin-Hung), *Last One*, wood/metal, 200 cm, 2010
2. Yoshitomo Nara, *Girl with a Long Fuse*, acrylic on canvas, 120x109.8 cm, 1996
3. Liu Ye, *Little Finger*, acrylic on canvas, 60x45.5 cm, 2000



*Chen Man, Five Elements-Water, light box, 148x148 cm, 2012*

Photos provided by Celine Lin

# Artistic passage to the future

By Celine Lin

**A**s part of the 54th Venice Biennale, an exhibition called *Future Pass – From Asia to the World* arrived at Beijing's Today Art Museum October 13, after traveling around the world.

The exhibition began at Wereld Museum in Rotterdam, Netherlands last December, and passed through the National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts in Taichung in May.

Curator Victoria Yung-chih Lu, 62, was dressed like a worker bee at an introductory press conference on Friday.

"I accidentally left the wings in Taipei," she said. "This is a sign that it's impossible for me to

fly in my beloved realm anymore."

Lu plans on retiring from curating after this exhibition.

The show features works from more than 150 prominent domestic and foreign artists, including Xu Bing, Zhang Xiaogang, Yayoi Kusama, Grimesa Amoros and Mika Ninagawa.

"I am pleased to end my curatorial career in Beijing," Lu said. "I added many more Chinese artists to this last stop, including famous Taiwanese artists No2good, A Shin and Kirsty Chu Chia Ray."

The show is a kaleidoscopic vision that breaks the "white box" mold of the museum.

"Those artists who have taken great pains to practice basic artistic skills are the best candidates

in every show I've ever curated," Lu said. She prefers art that serves the common person instead of the wealthy.

"Just look at my attire today," Lu said. "I think art isn't just for art's sake anymore. Instead, art is for people's sake, which means it should be open to industrious, common people."

The visual experience speaks directly to the viewing habits of our digital age, especially our relationship to the computer screen, Lu said.

"Future Pass has been structured around a series of dichotomous pairs, beginning with the dyad that lies at the very root of ancient Chinese philosophy – the concept of yin and yang, the idea that opposites complement each other," she said. "Yin and yang, male and female, lightness and darkness are interdependent; they have a shared origin. One cannot exist without the other, and each can transform into its opposite."

Renzo Di Renzo, the co-curator of Future Pass, further explained the concept. "The same law of dichotomy governs the other opposites in this show: east and west, past and future, virtual and real, universal and individual. These dichotomies are resolved in a single work of art."

Lu has a word for this merging of styles, and it comes from years of researching artistic trends: animamix.

"Animamix, a combination of 'animation' and 'comics,' will no longer be merely a subculture; instead, it's gradually becoming mainstream, which is my bold prediction," Lu said.

Lu's concept of Animamix is rooted in the gradual evolution of popular culture over the past several centuries, as well as the new aesthetic visions that have naturally emerged in the 21st century.

Artists such as Wu Dinglong and Italian Angelo Volpe, and Italian cosplay star Giorgia Vecchini, are prime examples of Lu's prediction, said Felix Schoeber, another co-curator of the show.

"A few years ago, it was absolutely unheard of that an Italian cosplayer such as Giorgia would attend an international biennale and come home with victory," Vecchini said. "By now it has become almost normal. Giorgia has turned cosplay into a professional career."

After the press conference, Lu introduced select artworks to the media and said she'd like to go into the entertainment business. She will continue to write articles for influential art magazines.

The exhibit will be open until October 29.



*Kristy Chu Chia Ray, Look Into Your Eyes, C-prints, 120x90 cm, 2012*

# Something vintage in new items for cold days

By Annie Wei

As the weather cools considerably, it's time to shop for winter coats, long leather gloves and eye protection. This week, *Beijing Today* finds brands with new products that combine vintage with modern and cool.



## Thom Browne sunglasses

The brand's new collection features 20 designs, inspired by famous architects, politicians, designers and professionals from the 1940s and '60s. We like this pair because it has a protective mesh on both sides, which can shield your eyes from strong winds. Thom Browne sunglasses are solid and light, comfortable to wear.

### Coterie

Where: D109, Nali Patio, 81 Sanlitun Bei Lu, Chaoyang District  
Open: 11 am – 8 pm  
Tel: 5208 6065



## Cole Hann

Most men's shoes come in brown or black, but Cole Hann's new shoes are gray and pink, which might help cheer up your mood.

Website: meiyouxiezi.taobao.com



## MaxMara's new collection

Every season, MaxMara's turns out a winter coat worth buying. It uses nice and warm fabric and comes in a timeless style. For this season, MaxMara's collection has adopted elements from the 1970s, such as bike jackets that emphasize slim waistlines, and coats from the 1960s and dresses with patterns from the 1940s.

We also like its leather gloves in soft, pink colors.

### Shin Kong Place

Where: 87 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District  
Open: 10 am – 10 pm  
Tel: 6530 5888



CFP Photos



Photo by neimanmarcus.com

## DVF oversized Laurel boucle coat

This bright yellow coat is eye-catching. It costs 7,000 yuan at Shin Kong Place but only 4,400 yuan on neimanmarcus.com. Many overseas websites offer service specifically for the Chinese mainland, such as saksfifthavenue.com.

Meanwhile, you can find many Taobao vendors who sell knock-off versions starting at 850 yuan.

### Shin Kong Place

Where: 87 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District  
Open: 10 am – 10 pm  
Tel: 6530 5888

Pearson Longman English World

1.  *Neil can't swim, is it?*  
 *Neil can't swim, can he?*

• This may be influenced by the Chinese use of 是嗎 / 是不是 (Cantonese 係唔係) to turn a statement into a question.  
 • In this case, the auxiliary verb 'can' is used with the pronoun 'he' for Neil.  
 • 'Is it?' can only be used when 'it' is the subject in the statement or is the appropriate pronoun for the subject in the statement:  
 *It's not obvious, is it?*  
 *The TV isn't working, is it?*

2.  *She's not coming, is it?*  
 *She's not coming, is she?*

Here 'she' must be used in the tag as 'she' is the subject of the statement.

## Exercise

### Choose the correct words:

Give the correct tag for the end of each question:

1. It's quite easy, \_\_\_\_\_?  
 2. Susan drinks coffee, \_\_\_\_\_?

Answers: 1. isn't it 2. doesn't she

### Book title:

Common English Errors in Hong Kong (New Edition) 是一本专门为香港初、中级英文水平的学生所编写的自学教材。本书指出并纠正大量本地学生所常犯的英文文法与字法使用上的错误，并附有非常生动活泼的插图，深受青少年学生的青睐。

资料来源: Language Leader (Pre-intermediate) by Ian Lebeau and Gareth Rees (Pearson Longman)



# Food options from high to low

By Annie Wei

*Beijing Today* continues digging up restaurants worth of a try!

## Southwest food made of selected ingredients

The restaurant No. 44 Kitchen was named after its former address – 44 XiguanHutong, Dongsi. Opened in 2006, it moved last summer to Xicheng District.

The owner was an environment major with a passion for food. She grew up in southwest China and lived abroad for five years, and now wants to create authentic regional dishes that mesh with Western tastes.

After moving into her more spacious location, Huang Zhen said she and her husband have tried their best to source organic ingredients. They created their own vegetable garden and farm their own chicken. She also uses traditional methods to make pig's feet and dry bamboo shoots.

"I want to return to the flavors we had as children," Huang said.

The most recommended dishes include Motuoshiguoji (need to be ordered in advance), chicken stewed in stone bowl with many Chinese herbs. The stone bowl is produced in Motuo, a remote and isolated town on Brahmaputra Valley, Tibet. China only recently finished a road to Motuo this year. The dish comes with a creamy white soup and a light flavor.

We also like its sour soup fish (68 yuan for 500 grams). The restaurant makes its own fermented tomatoes to create the sour soup, garnished with litsea, a pepper-



Fried shrimp, 68 yuan



Pepper beef, 68 yuan

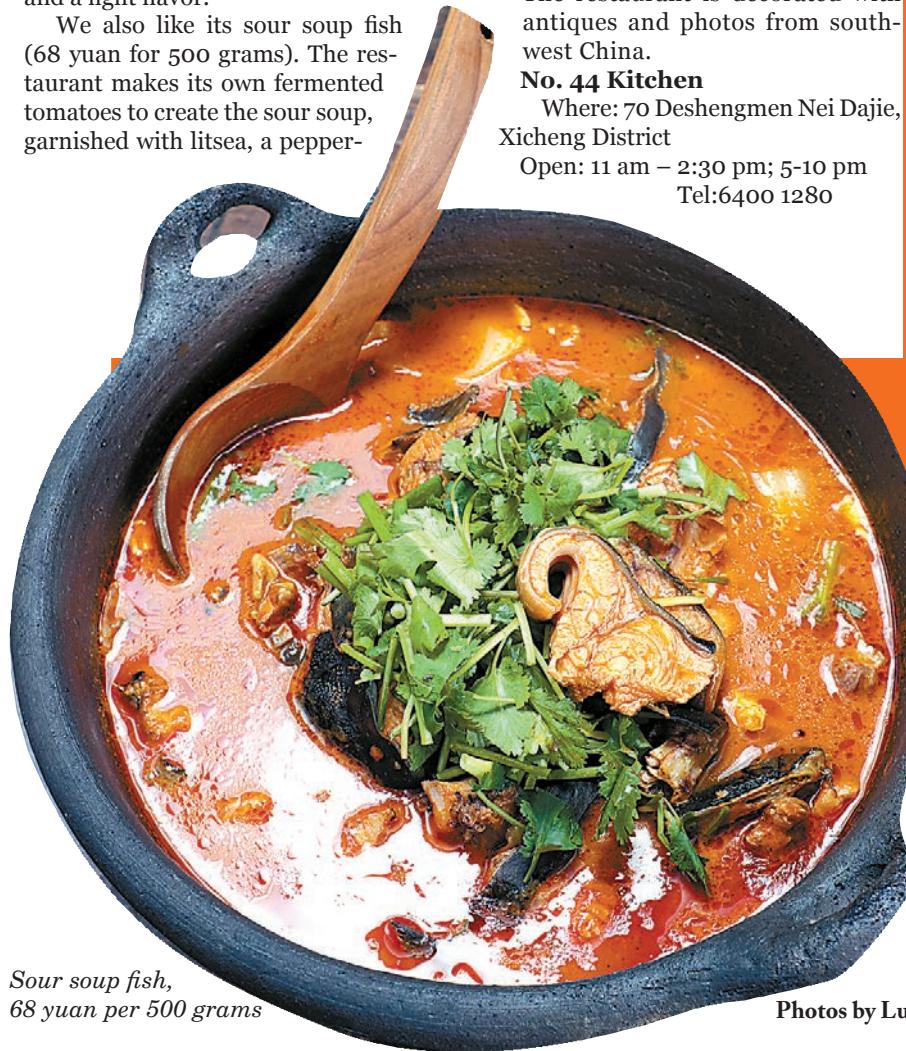
like fruit grown in southern China and Tibet that is good for the stomach. It comes in a non-spicy variety as well.

Its pepper beef (68 yuan) is yummy. The restaurant grills the marinated, select beef and fries it with peppers, chili, onions, mint and basil. The meat is tender, with layers of flavors.

The restaurant is decorated with antiques and photos from southwest China.

### No. 44 Kitchen

Where: 70 Deshengmen Nei Dajie, Xicheng District  
Open: 11 am – 2:30 pm; 5-10 pm  
Tel: 6400 1280



Sour soup fish, 68 yuan per 500 grams

Photos by Lu Di



Rice rolls, starting at 8 yuan

CFP Photo

## Street eatery offers honest, comfort food

Increasing food costs have led many restaurants to raise their prices, but many have seemed to sacrifice quality as well.

In a hectic and chaotic residential area in Shuangjing, a small Hong Kong-style eatery has opened that seems to strike the right balance of quality vs. price. Located on the southeast side of Shuangjing Bridge, it's been attracting many diners with its warm and bright orange decor, wide selection of home flavors, reasonable prices and late hours.

The food is prepared fresh. All rice-rolls (starting from 8 yuan) are steamed upon ordering.

We tried the barbecued pork rice rolls (12 yuan). They were ready within three minutes in a big serving, with a small plate of soy sauce. The rolls were thin and chewy.

We also tried the ginseng and dark chicken soup (10 yuan), which tasted like it was

homemade.

For dessert, we tried shuangpinai (starting from 8 yuan), steamed milk with a strong milk flavor, silky and delicious. It's made of milk, egg and sugar, and free of artificial ingredients.

The restaurant also has a dozen options for rice set menus starting from 15 yuan.

One thing we don't recommend is the "fresh juice," starting at 8 yuan. They cut a carrot into pieces and added water.

The store is open from 6 am to midnight, with delivery service within the neighborhood.

A server said they don't prepare all the food in the eatery, as the kitchen area is too small. They have a workshop that delivers every day.

"We are thinking of expansion," he said, proudly.

### Zijia Yizuo

Where: southeast corner of Shuangjing Bridge, south of Sichuan Ren Hotpot

Open: 6 am – midnight  
Tel: 13911669892

## Michelin-starred chef to cook at Lan Club

To celebrate its 6th anniversary, LAN Club is flying in Michelin-starred chef Anthony Genovese from Rome to prepare a special menu for local gourmands.

Genovese will be cooking from next Tuesday to Saturday, October 27.

Genovese has traveled extensively throughout southeast Asia. Also, with many years of experience in famous Michelin-star restaurants like EnotecaP-inchiorri in Florence, he loves to combine traditional Italian cuisine with Pacific Asian characteristics.

For LAN Club's special dining week, Genovese will present a six-course menu (780 yuan plus 10 percent gratuity fee), including fried smoked

amberjack, caviar, courgettes and citrus sauce; scallops with apple cream and hazelnut bread; white truffle risotto, codfish with ham sauce, egg marinated in black tea; caramelized veal entrecote, aubergine, pinenuts, capers and anchovies chutney.

### Lan Club

Where: 4F, Twins Tower, 12 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District  
Open: RSVP  
Tel: 5109 6012



Photo provided by Lan Club